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13 September 2010

Block E

**Immigration**

My father’s side of my family came from Slovakia. The Možieš half came in the 1890s, looking for a better life. Although, my great-grandfather at the time was an adult, he was trying to enrich his life, by achieving the American Dream. Great-grandpa Možieš was forced to change his name to Moxie when he arrived to the United States, because of how difficult Možieš is to pronounce. When he arrived he quickly settled down in East Deer Township, PA. All whilst he worked at the Pittsburgh Plate Glass company. My father’s other half, was from Poltar, Slovakia. My other great-grandfather, Lajos Burin, yes, came to America to achieve the American dream, but he had another motive. His newfound stepmother had recently been christened into the Burin family, and brought with her many troubles. Lajos and his wealthy, powerful stepmother did not get along at all; so, he was cast out of the family. As a result, Lajos at just 19 years of age trekked to America in search of a better life. He spent his days working in a coal mine in the Pittsburgh area, earning money to bring his other siblings over to the United States, and away from their stepmother, in Poltar, Slovakia. He was successful, and resulted in bringing all of his siblings to the US.

My mother’s side of the family is entirely from Sao Miguel, Açores, Portugal. Both descendants, the Silvias, and the Pires lived in Fall River when they came to the United States. The Pires side came over in order to better live their life. Living on a fisherman’s salary, and supplementing it with great-grandma Pires’ Madeira Lace Linens sales and seamstress work, was typical in Sao Miguel. When the Pires family came to America on a ship, they went through Stanton Island, but ended up creating a home in Fall River, MA. The main draws to Fall River were the bountiful mills. Anything but scarce was millwork in Fall River. So, my great-grandmother Pires, and my great-grandmother Silvia both ended up working in mills. As the years wore on, the mills were becoming less popular, but even my grandparents worked in the textile mills for some time. Fall River was the permanent home for the Pires and the Silvias.

I still have relatives in both Slovakia, and Sao Miguel, Portugal. However, I consider myself an American.